

February 5, 2009

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 S 4<sup>th</sup> St, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Attn: Greg Chilcott  
Kathleen Driscoll  
Carlotta Grandstaff  
J R Iman  
Jim Rokosch

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 09 2009**

Ravalli County Commissioners

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You are studying standards for the Ravalli County Airport. Because our home is within the affected area, we have been following the expansion and upgrade issues very carefully. Also, because we are so close, we are concerned of the safety issues as well as noise and air pollution.

Currently, we can see no reason to spend \$20 million to upgrade to a 5200 foot runway because of the cost as well as the need. This expansion will benefit only a few. Come to our home any summer weekend - especially a holiday one - and watch the "jets" come and go. With more runway we will have more and bigger jets. The EA document claims over 29,000 take offs and landings in a year. That calculates to 79.45 per day and we know that is not accurate, even if including the training class of touch and go.

We would like to see the FAA enforce the current regulations in making this airport safe. Why are the hangars to close to the runway - who built them there? Where were they at the last airplane crash a year ago, were they aware the plane was overloaded yet no reprimand to the pilot? Why are some of the hangars used for non-aircraft storage? Why are homes still being allowed to be built in the affected area?

The airport was here when we purchased the land and built our home and we knew we would have planes coming and going. What we were not prepared for was the expansion. The county would limit the height of trees we would be able to plant in our yard, yet a new development was approved above us while any home built there would be higher than any tree we could plant. Is the county also going to pay for the loss of value of our home from the original cost when selling? The \$20 million could be used in so many other and better ways than creating an albatross in our valley!

Sincerely,

*Jim Shipman*  
*Carol A Shipman*

Jim and Carol Shipman  
206 Upper Sky Way  
Hamilton, MT 59840

CC: John Lavey, Planning Director  
Lee Kierig